



The Honorable Norman Mineta  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh St., SW  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Wireless E-911 Steering Council Priority Action Items & Recommendations

Dear Secretary Mineta:

The Wireless E-911 Steering Council, convened at your request to identify solutions to the problems of wireless E-911, is pleased to report back to you. Much has been accomplished since you last spoke to us in April of 2002.

As you know, the Steering Council constitutes a wide cross-section of the public health and safety community with representatives from all levels of government, private industry, and non-profit associations. After considerable discussion, and with the much-appreciated support and effort of the Expert Working Group, we have identified the Priority Actions that we believe will accelerate compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) wireless E-911 mandates. As a courtesy we are providing you with a copy of the Action Plan for your consideration in advance of its formal publication.

We would like to invite you to the Steering Council's next meeting so that we can present the Action Plan to you formally. The presentation, as well as any brief statement you would like to make, would take no more than fifteen minutes and would occur at DOT headquarters. As it has been nearly a year since the last publicity on the DOT Wireless Initiative, a brief, public event would enable you to receive some well-deserved publicity as the cabinet's leader on wireless E-911 issues and would help generate attention and momentum as we launch into the implementation phase of the Plan.

Meanwhile, we take this opportunity to highlight the Priority Action Items:

1. Establish support for statewide coordination, and identify points of contact within each state for each of the stakeholders;

2. Help to convene stakeholders in appropriate 911 regions in order to facilitate more comprehensive, coordinated implementations;
3. Examine cost recovery/funding issues at the state level to determine what is available and whether it is adequate;
4. Initiate a knowledge transfer and outreach program to educate PSAPs, wireless carriers and the public;
5. Develop a coordinated deployment strategy encompassing both rural and urban areas.
6. Implement a model location program.

The enclosures identify the leaders, stakeholders, tasks, and time frames necessary to achieve each action item. Many of the Steering Council member organizations are well underway with the tasks they have agreed to accomplish, and we are confident that we will be able to hold to this aggressive schedule.

With the FCC's 2005 deadline for deployment of wireless 9-1-1 Phase II looming, time is of the essence. The state of the nation's economy, the limitations of the existing telecommunications systems (such as the need to upgrade the wire line E-911 systems), the rapid pace of technological change, and the pressing need of our nation to devote time, energy and resources to homeland security matters may all draw federal attention away from this issue. Although we have completed the Action Plan, there is more work to be done to actually implement it. We are hopeful that you will continue to support the meetings of the Expert Working Group and the Steering Council so that we can develop a road map for the implementation of the Action Plan and thereby achieve the goals you have set out for us.

As a symbol of our commitment, the members of the Steering Council have signed a Letter of Intent binding ourselves to the actions outlined in the Plan, to taking the lead within our communities, and to delivering the results you have asked us to deliver. The Steering Council appreciates your continued involvement and visibility on the issue, including the solicitation of support from other cabinet departments, and thank you in advance for seizing every opportunity to improve the safety of American citizens. Together, we will bring the initiative to a successful conclusion. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Bailey  
President, NASNA  
Chair, USDOT Wireless E-911 Steering Council